

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A portable locator for locating and holding a structural member in a predetermined position on a worksurface of an assembly apparatus during an assembly operation wherein at least one fastener is installed to connect the structural member to another structural member, the locator comprising:

5                   a stop configured for engaging the structural member to hold the structural member at its predetermined position on the worksurface; and

                  a securing device for securing the stop to the assembly apparatus, the securing device including a body operatively connected to the stop and a holding member movable relative to the body between an extended position for  
10                   engaging the assembly apparatus to hold the securing device at a fixed position on the assembly apparatus and a retracted position to release the securing device and enable moving the locator to a different location.

2. A portable locator as set forth in claim 1 wherein the holding member is attached to the body for rotation relative thereto.

3. A portable locator as set forth in claim 2 wherein the securing device further includes a hand-operable actuator for manually moving the holding member between the extended and retracted positions.

4. A portable locator as set forth in claim 3 wherein the actuator comprises a handle and a shaft slidably received in said body and connecting the handle and holding member, the shaft being rotatable with respect to the body.

5 5. A portable locator as set forth in claim 4 wherein the body of the securing device has a lower projection configured for being received in one of a plurality of parallel slots extending through the worksurface, and wherein the holding member is positioned generally beneath the body such that when the lower projection is received in said slot, the holding member is below the worksurface.

6. A portable locator as set forth in claim 5 wherein said lower projection which aligns with said slot when received therein, and wherein the holding member comprises an elongate nut having a width less than a width of said slot and a length greater than the width of said slot.

7. A portable locator as set forth in claim 5 wherein the securing device further comprises a spring urging the holding member toward the body for gripping the assembly apparatus.

8. A portable locator as set forth in claim 7 wherein the actuator further comprises a collar attached to the shaft and the body includes a cavity

with an internal shoulder, and wherein the spring is captured in the cavity between said collar and said shoulder.

9. A portable locator as set forth in claim 8 wherein the holding member comprises a rectangularly-shaped nut.

10. A portable locator as set forth in claim 1 wherein the stop is mounted for translational movement relative to the securing device to thereby selectively adjust said predetermined position of the structural member on the worksurface.

11. A portable locator as set forth in claim 10 further comprising a powered cylinder for moving the stop.

12. A portable locator as set forth in claim 11 further comprising at least one rod for guiding said translational movement of the stop, the rod being connected to the stop and slidably movable relative to the body.

13. A portable locator as set forth in claim 10 further comprising a channel connected to the stop for guiding translational movement of the stop, the channel having an elongate guide slot therein, and a fastener extending through

the slot configured for securing the channel at a selected position relative to the  
5     securing device.

14. A portable locator as set form in claim 1 in combination with the  
assembly apparatus.

15. An assembly apparatus for assembling a truss, comprising:  
a table for receiving at least two structural timbers to be connected  
together during an assembly operation wherein at least one fastener is installed to  
connect the timbers and form said truss, the table having a plurality of parallel  
5     slots therein extending in a longitudinal direction;

a body having at least a portion configured for being received in one  
of said slots and being slidably movable along said slot in said longitudinal  
direction;

a stop for locating and holding one of said timbers in a  
10     predetermined position on the table, the stop being operatively connected to the  
body and configured for engaging the timber to hold the timber at said  
predetermined position, the stop being movable in translation relative to the body  
in a direction transverse the longitudinal direction; and

a securing device for securing the body at a selected position along  
15     the slot, the securing device including a holding member attached to the body for  
rotation relative thereto, the holding member being positioned beneath the body;

wherein the securing device further includes a spring urging the holding member upward for gripping a lower side of the table.

16. An assembly apparatus as set forth in claim 15 wherein the holding member is movable relative to the body between an extended position for engaging the table to hold the body at said selected position and a retracted position to release the table and enable moving the locator to a different location.